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Again, we see Rome rising out of obscurity, extending her conquests far and wide, till the imperial eagle had spread its wings over the limits of the habitable world; then, in her turn, drooping—her government, after a variety of changes, settling down into despotism—the once empress of the world becoming gradually degenerate, till the barbarian foot of the Vandal and the Goth had trampled all her greatness in the dust. A reign of darkness succeeds—the arts and sciences languish. A ray of light at last pierces through the gloom—from out the bosom of the ocean arose a mighty queen, who, while she held the shield of Minerva over the cradle of nascent literature, waved the trident of Neptune, and all nations owned her as the mistress of the deep. Such things we cannot read without instruction. They are grand moral magazines filled with lessons of wisdom for mankind. To the orator no study is more useful: it enlarges the sphere of his mind, gives extent and amplitude to his thoughts, and furnishes him with materials for enforcing and illustrating every subject."

If the various addresses delivered, contained as much good sense, with as little to censure, as the one before us, we should almost feel inclined to retract our opinion as to the usefulness of such Societies generally; and to say of the present one, *esto perpetua*.

EXTRAORDINARY SURGICAL OPERATION.

At one of the Sectional Meetings of the British Association, Surgeon Whatton, of Manchester, described a new operation practised by him for the cure of caries, or injury of the bones of the foot requiring amputation, which consisted of a removal of the lateral half of the foot, leaving the other half to serve as a proper support in walking. He said, that as far back as 1811, during the Peninsular war, his attention had been drawn to this subject. At that time, when the bones and soft parts of the foot were injured by balls or fragments of shells, the usual practice was to amputate transversely, either at the tarso-metatarsal union, or higher up at the astragulo-scapoid and calcaneo-cuboideal. Since he had been appointed to the infirmary at Manchester, he adopted a different mode of operating, which was attended with very superior advantages. He had adopted this plan after a careful study of the relative anatomy of the foot, and was not aware that there was any such operation on record. He tried the operation in a great number of cases, and found it to answer extremely well; of this he hoped he should be able to convince the meeting, as he had an opportunity of showing a patient on whom the operation had been performed, and who was able to walk twenty miles a day. Finding that all ordinary modes of treatment had proved ineffectual, Mr. Whatton decided on the longitudinal operation, which was performed in the following manner. An incision, commencing at the root of the fourth toe, was carried, in a slightly curved direction, towards the extremity of the fifth metatarsal bone, and terminated near the outer malleolus. This incision was made on the plantar surface of the foot. A similar incision, commencing and terminating at the same points, was carried along the dorsum. The flaps being dissected off, the knife was carried between the two outer metatarsal bones, down to the cuboid. The outer edge of the os calcis, being found diseased, was also paired off with the scalpel. The second incision removed the next toe and its metatarsal bone in a similar manner, leaving three toes with their corresponding tarsal bones. There was considerable hæmorrhage after the operation, and it was thought advisable to defer dressing the foot, until the patient was placed in bed. The wounds healed kindly, and the man was discharged about twelve weeks after the operation, perfectly well. A cast of the foot was taken ten months after the operation; this shows some fullness about the teguments of the tarsus and metatarsus; but in a cast taken twenty months after the operation, a manifest improvement is visible. Mr. Whatton here exhibited the casts, which he stated he should feel great pleasure in presenting to the Royal College of Surgeons of Dublin. The patient operated

on was exhibited to the meeting. He walked up and down, with as much ease as a person who had the perfect use of his limbs; and on being required to stand on the leg, singly, he made the attempt in such a manner as to show that he possessed a considerable power of balancing himself.

LINES ON THE DEATH OF THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD.

The Ettrick Shepherd! what a name
To build a monument to fame!
A lonely boy, among the hills,
Feeding his flock beside the rills,
Unskilled in lore, save that by heaven
To Nature's meanest children given—
That mounting fire within the breast,
Kindled at His supreme behest,
Who oft inspires the meanest clod
With more of genius and of God,
Than in a thousand years we see
In kings, to whom we bend the knee.
What blissful throbs of purest joy
It woke in thee, a shepherd boy,
To hear the lav'rock from his cloud,
Enthron'd in azure, singing, loud,
A song at once so sweet and clear,
It pictur'd heaven to thy ear—
That land of harmony and love—
Land of the Lamb and Holy Dove—
Where now, we humbly trust, thy soul
Reposes at the rapturous goal!
How fit the silent joy of woods—
The calm of Scotia's solitudes—
To waken in the feeling heart
The poet's rapt and thrilling art!
In vain the outward eye may see
The traits of grace and majesty,
If to the soul no sense be given
That kindles at the gifts of heaven.
Not thine, not thine, this misty haze.
Thy soul, illumin'd by thy gaze,
A flood of light o'er Ettrick shed—
A halo round the poet's head.
Upsprung, enchanted with its ray,
The Minstrel of the Border-lay:
That light, he knew, was not of earth—
No meteor-glare of sudden birth,
That in a moment quits the sky;
But born through time, to rule on high.
Thy varied lay is nature still,
To rouse or melt the heart at will.
"Sweet woman-kind," how dear to thee,
"Wi' wavin' curls aboon the bree!"
That simple strain to hear thee sing,
How in the heart its echoes ring!
And will, till death shall snap the chords
That thrill at thy remember'd words!
Around the social table met,
That happy night we'll ne'er forget,
When mony a one, now scatter'd wide,
And some, struck low in manhood's pride,
To meet the Shepherd flew wi' glee,
(And Galt and Pringle made a three
"Ye wadna meet in Christendee!")—
The Ettrick Shepherd!—what a name
To build a monument to fame!

JOHN MACRAY.

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